

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3500

To provide grants to States to establish, expand, or enhance prekindergarten programs for children who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To provide grants to States to establish, expand, or enhance prekindergarten programs for children who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Prekindergarten Ac-
5 cess Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM.**

7 Title V of the Elementary and Secondary Education
8 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7201 et seq.) is amended by add-
9 ing at the end the following:

1 **“PART E—PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS**

2 **“SEC. 5701. FINDINGS.**

3 “The Congress finds the following:

4 “(1) Countless studies have shown what every
5 parent already knows: High-quality preschool edu-
6 cation programs work. They prepare children to
7 learn when they go to school, and the programs in-
8 crease the success of students throughout their lives.

9 “(2) Children who get a high-quality prekind-
10 ergarten education are less likely to repeat a grade
11 level and have less need for special education in-
12 struction than those with no prekindergarten experi-
13 ence.

14 “(3) Prekindergarten programs make a signifi-
15 cant difference in the lives of children from low-in-
16 come families. A recent study found that children in
17 high-quality child care programs had better thinking
18 and attention skills, better mathematics and pre-
19 reading skills, and fewer behavioral problems.

20 “(4) In a study following children to age 21
21 who received high-quality early childhood education,
22 such children were more likely to have enrolled in
23 college, been employed, and delayed parenthood.

24 **“SEC. 5702. DEFINITIONS.**

25 “For purposes of this part:

1 “(1) PREKINDERGARTEN.—The term ‘pre-
2 kindergarten’ means a program serving children who
3 are 3, 4, or 5 years of age that supports children’s
4 cognitive, social, emotional, and physical develop-
5 ment and helps prepare children for the transition to
6 kindergarten.

7 “(2) ELIGIBLE PREKINDERGARTEN PRO-
8 VIDER.—The term ‘eligible prekindergarten provider’
9 includes a child care program, Head Start agency,
10 or school that—

11 “(A) has met applicable State licensing re-
12 quirements and has obtained accreditation by a
13 national accrediting body with demonstrated ex-
14 perience in accrediting child care, prekinder-
15 garten programs, or schools; or

16 “(B) agrees to obtain such accreditation
17 not later than 3 years after receipt of a grant
18 under this part.

19 “(3) PREKINDERGARTEN TEACHER.—The term
20 ‘prekindergarten teacher’ means an individual who
21 has or is working toward a bachelor of arts degree
22 in early childhood development.

23 **“SEC. 5703. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may provide
25 grants to a State with an approved application under sub-

1 section (b) to allow such State to establish or expand pre-
2 kindergarten early learning programs by eligible pre-
3 kindergarten providers and local educational agencies in
4 partnership with early childhood programs, organizations,
5 or agencies that serve prekindergarten school children.

6 “(b) STATE APPLICATION.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The State shall designate a
8 State agency to administer, including the receipt and
9 administration of funds and the evaluation of the
10 program, the State-funded prekindergarten program
11 funded under this part.

12 “(2) STATE APPLICATION.—The appropriate
13 agency shall submit an application to the Secretary
14 that includes—

15 “(A) an assurance that the State will pro-
16 vide non-Federal matching funds equal to not
17 less than 20 percent of the award; and

18 “(B) a description of—

19 “(i) how grant funds will be used to
20 expand or enhance existing efforts across
21 the State in providing access to high-qual-
22 ity prekindergarten programs;

23 “(ii) how the State will collaborate
24 with local child care agencies and councils,

1 including local child care resource and re-
2 ferral agencies;

3 “(iii) how grant funds will be used to
4 supplement and not supplant existing Fed-
5 eral, State, local and private funds used
6 for prekindergarten programs;

7 “(iv) how the State will ensure that
8 grant funds are provided to a range of
9 types of eligible prekindergarten providers;

10 “(v) how the State will help eligible
11 prekindergarten providers attract and re-
12 tain qualified prekindergarten teachers;

13 “(vi) how the State will identify the
14 eligible children and eligible prekind-
15 ergarten providers; and

16 “(vii) how the State will give priority
17 to full-time prekindergarten programs, in-
18 cluding the expansion of existing part-time
19 programs into full-time programs.

20 **“SEC. 5704. LOCAL APPLICATIONS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency or eli-
22 gible prekindergarten provider, as the case may be, that
23 desires to receive a grant under this part shall submit an
24 application to the State agency designated under section

1 5703(b) at such time, in such manner, and containing
2 such information as such agency may reasonably require.

3 “(b) SPECIAL RULE.—If the State prekindergarten
4 program is not operated through the local educational
5 agency, then the State shall award subgrants to eligible
6 prekindergarten providers that currently administer pre-
7 kindergarten programs at the local level.

8 “(c) CONTENT.—An application referred to in sub-
9 section (a), at a minimum, shall—

10 “(1) demonstrate a need for the establishment,
11 enhancement, or expansion of a prekindergarten pro-
12 gram;

13 “(2) describe how the local educational agency
14 or eligible prekindergarten provider collaborates with
15 local early childhood councils and agencies;

16 “(3) provide an assurance that each individual
17 hired is qualified to teach children at the prekinde-
18 rgarten level;

19 “(4) provide an assurance that the ratio of
20 teachers or child development specialists to children
21 shall not exceed 1 to 10;

22 “(5) provide a description of how funds will be
23 used to coordinate with and enhance, but not dupli-
24 cate or supplant, early childhood programs serving
25 eligible children that exist in the community;

1 “(6) describe how the agency or eligible pre-
2 kindergarten provider will use a collaborative process
3 with organizations and members of the community
4 that have an interest and experience in early child-
5 hood development and education to establish, ex-
6 pand, or enhance prekindergarten programs;

7 “(7) describe how the program will meet the di-
8 verse needs of children, ages 3 through 5, in the
9 community who are not enrolled in kindergarten, in-
10 cluding children with disabilities or whose native lan-
11 guage is other than English;

12 “(8) describe how the agency or eligible pre-
13 kindergarten provider will collaborate with local
14 schools to ensure a smooth transition for partici-
15 pating students from early childhood education to
16 kindergarten and early elementary education;

17 “(9) describe the results the programs are in-
18 tended to achieve, and what tools will be used to
19 measure the progress in attaining those results; and

20 “(10) provide an assurance that none of the
21 funds received under this part may be used for the
22 construction or renovation of existing or new facili-
23 ties (except for minor remodeling needed to accom-
24 plish the purposes of this part).

1 **“SEC. 5705. USES OF FUNDS.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—An agency or eligible prekinde-
3 garten provider that receives a grant award under this
4 part shall use funds received through the grant to estab-
5 lish, enhance, or expand prekindergarten programs for
6 children, ages 3 through 5, who are not enrolled in kinde-
7 garten, including—

8 “(1) providing a program that focuses on the
9 developmental needs of participating children, in-
10 cluding their social, cognitive, physical, and lan-
11 guage-development needs, and using research-based
12 approaches that build on competencies that lead to
13 school success, particularly in language and literacy
14 development and in reading;

15 “(2) paying the costs of purchasing educational
16 equipment, including educational materials, nec-
17 essary to provide a high-quality program;

18 “(3) pursuing accreditation by a national ac-
19 creditation body with demonstrated experience in ac-
20 creditation of prekindergarten programs, to be ob-
21 tained not later than 3 years after the date of re-
22 ceipt of funds under this part;

23 “(4) helping prekindergarten teachers pursue
24 and attain the credential and degree requirements
25 established by the State and provide a stipend for

1 attaining educational or professional development;
2 and

3 “(5) meeting the needs of working parents.

4 “(b) PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—An agency or
5 eligible prekindergarten provider that receives a grant
6 award under this part may use funds received through the
7 grant to pay for transporting students to and from a pre-
8 kindergarten program.

9 **“SEC. 5706. REPORTING.**

10 “(a) LOCAL REPORTS.—Each local educational agen-
11 cy or eligible prekindergarten provider that receives a
12 grant award under this part shall submit an annual report
13 to the designated State agency that reviews the effective-
14 ness of the prekindergarten program established with
15 funds provided under this part on—

16 “(1) number and ages of children served, in-
17 cluding information (disaggregated by family in-
18 come, race, disability, native language);

19 “(2) number of hours of service per day and
20 number of months;

21 “(3) number of prekindergarten teachers; and

22 “(4) other sources of Federal, State, local, and
23 private funds used to operate a program.

1 “(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
2 submit an annual report to the Congress that evaluates
3 the prekindergarten programs established under this part.

4 **“SEC. 5707. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 “‘There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
6 this part \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2006,
7 \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, \$5,000,000,000 for
8 fiscal year 2008, \$8,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2009, and
9 \$10,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2010.’”.

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